

DESERT DUST

Carlin Historical Society - Carlin, Nevada

Carlin's Civil Air Patrol

WRITTEN BY ELLA B. TRUJILLO



The Civil Air Patrol, a national organization, began in the 1930s. During World War II, the group even engaged in combat domestically. However, in 1948, it officially became an auxiliary of the United States Air Force and the incorporating charter declared it would no longer be involved in direct combat activities. Its focus shifted to emergency services, especially search and rescue, aerospace education for the youth and general public, and cadet programs for teenagers.

In October of 1948, a group of Carlin citizens met to begin the process of forming a CAP in Carlin.

They would need to obtain an official charter before they could acquire a plane, hangars, uniforms, fuel, and radios. The group's focus would be teaching Carlin's youth how to fly planes.

It wasn't until December that the group became official. An L-4 plane had been obtained and was used for flight training and related skills. There were 23 cadets and 21 adults, including active military members, present at the meeting. The group planned to meet weekly for lessons.

In 1949, the group flew to California for an intensive two-week training. They left Elko on a C-47 and the boys went for training in Sacramento and the girls to Riverside, California.

At the camp, the students attended classes on navigation, meteorology, airplane construction, close-order drill, and citizenship. At that time, the group was drilling every Tuesday and flying every Sunday. In October of 1949, the group was called out to help search for a plane that had gone missing. Soon after departing to search, word was received that the plane had finally arrived in Elko.

The group continued to operate and in 1951, a Carlin Cadet was one of five boys in America chosen to make a “goodwill” flight to Holland and remain there for 30 days. The Cadet was Robert W. Ferguson and this was evidence of the strength of Carlin’s CAP. In 1952, another Carlin cadet, Joan Sawle, was invited to attend the annual Congressional dinner in Washington, D.C., as a representative of CAP. Ms. Sawle was a junior in high school at the time and had already attended two of the two-week training encampments. It isn’t quite clear when the Carlin Civil Air Patrol faded but with peace comes lethargy.



A big thank you to the Class of 2023, Nevada Gold Mines, and the Next Dollar Foundation for making the restoration of the school boxcar happen! Next up the caboose! Donate Today!



News and Gossip

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kidsploration - June 19th, July 24th, and August 14th.

Carlin 13 Medal Presentation and Cemetery Tour - June 11th at 2 pm.

Richard Perry Documentary in the Park - June 30th at 8:30 pm.

New Exhibit at Museum Opens July 4th

www.carlinhistoricalsociety.com